

high winds, they descended the next morning to Camp II and several days later all the way to Base. Murray made another trip to Camp II and two more attempts as far as Camp III before descending for good on October 17, just in time to clear out our camps before the blizzard on October 18.

STEVEN BOYER

*Everest Attempts.* The “expedition” organized by Hanns Schell was actually a group of teams. It included the American Snowbird Expedition as well as Steve Boyer and Murray Rice whose efforts are given above. In all there were 5 Austrians, 5 Germans, 1 Italian, 2 French and 13 Americans. They all attempted the South-Col route and none were successful. The highest any of them got was 8400 meters reached by South Tirolean Reinhard Patscheider and Austrian Thomas Schlicher on October 2. They were turned back primarily by wind. The French couple Bernard Muller and Laurence de la Ferrière and Austrian Rüdiger Lang spent the night of September 29 on the South Col.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest Attempt.* The Snowbird Everest expedition began with a casual visit to Nepal’s Ministry of Tourism and then a letter to Austrian Hanns Schell, Everest’s permit-holder for the post-monsoon season. Karen Fellerhoff gained from Schell the admission of a cadre of Americans to join his group on the classic South-Col route. Our climbing group was composed of Fellerhoff, Sally McCoy, Mary Kay Brewster, Kelly Rhoads, Steve Fossett, Renny Jackson, Robert Link, Christopher Noble, Peter Whittaker and me as well as journalist Elizabeth Kaufmann and film-maker Marjorie Lester. From Namche Bazar we quickly made our way to 17,800-foot Everest Base Camp, arriving on September 6. We were preceded by the Austrian team, who had agreed to establish the icefall route. For safety reasons, we traveled through the icefall during the colder periods of the day, usually arising at three A.M. each day. With the assistance of our able Sherpas, we established Camps I and II (Advance Base) at 20,000 and 21,800 feet. From there we placed Camp III at 23,500 feet on the Lhotse Face and Camp IV on the South Col at 26,000 feet. With the exception of one major storm and the odd morning or afternoon snow, the weather proved amenable. By September 27, we were ready to send our first summit team from Base Camp with the hopes of summiting on October 2. Those plans were not to materialize; nor were the next series of summit attempts. High winds above Camp III would prevent us, the Austrians and all other expeditions on the mountain, in Tibet as well as Nepal, from reaching the top. Finally Peter Whittaker and Christopher Noble were climbing above Camp IV on October 9, but unfortunately they were thwarted by wind not far from Camp IV. They made a stalwart attempt to wait out the winds in the cwm, even after the exodus of the Austrian team on October 15. Everest administered

the *coup de grace* on October 19, 20 and 21 with gale-force winds down to 7000 meters and snow accumulations of more than a meter of snow in Base Camp. Camps II, III and IV were virtually destroyed by burial or wind. Seven members departed for lower climes shortly after the storm, leaving Fellerhoff, Rhoads, Jackson and me with our Sherpas to continue. Weeks of work and illness had taken their toll. Two Sherpas and I were the last to ascend to Camp II. Our intention was to clear the mountain of valuables other than what we might need for one last attempt, which was scheduled to begin on October 26. We began the laborious ascent of the Lhotse Face with great hopes. The wind seemed to have abated slightly. From Camp III on, these hopes were dashed. The plumes on Everest, Lhotse and Nuptse were greater than ever and the wind coming from Tibet heralded winter. We retrieved supplies from Camp III and turned our back on the mountain for good. Two days later, we had completed our clean-up and descended to Base. Everest has now not been climbed from Nepal for two years.

PETER ATHANS

*Everest attempt.* Raging winds brought progress on our four-man attempt on the south pillar of Everest to a standstill as the jet stream lowered prematurely. Despite our 70-day vigil at 5500 meters and over, the outrageous winds never abated and those who ventured high invariably returned unsuccessful and with frostbite. We established Base Camp on August 23. At the time of our first summit bid, in late September, the jet stream lashed the mountain ferociously, catching the first pair, New Zealander Kim Logan and Australian Mike Rheinberger, in their bivouac at 8075 meters. After a horrifying night when they used their bodies to prevent their tent from being demolished by the extreme winds, they began their long descent via the South Col to the Western Cwm. As they crossed the wind-swept col, they were both blown off their feet successive times and it was certainly then that they began to develop frostbite. Their cold injuries ended the expedition for them. Australian Jon Muir and I continued our attempt alone for another six weeks. Three times we ascended the icefall from Base Camp to Camp II in the Western Cwm, where we waited for a week or more each time for the wind to abate. On numerous occasions we got ready to depart when the weather again deteriorated. The frightful blizzard starting on October 19 all but ended the effort for all. A week later Jon Muir and I reascended the icefall to our destroyed advance camp. For two more days we remained on the mountain completely alone, ever hoping for a break in the weather which never came. We had been high too long and both of us felt seriously deteriorated. On the last day of October, we packed up our tiny camp and headed down the glacier. In the icefall, suddenly all hell broke loose. With a crack, an area 100 by 200 meters in size lurched violently. Huge crevasses opened around us and other chasms snapped shut. The snow-covered ice buckled like the rise and fall of surf on a wild coastline. After five seconds all movement ceased as quickly as